

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03222 251845Z

72

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-10 BIB-01

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R 251652Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8540

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ATHENS 3222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, GR, US, NATO

SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ON STATUS U.S. AND NATO MILITARY BASES
IN GREECE

1. TO VIMA FEATURE STORY APRIL 25 REPORTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH RESPECT TO NATO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE WOULD
BEGIN SHORTLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SECOND PHASE OF GREEK-
AMERICAN TALKS RELEVANT TO U.S. BASES HAS SUBSTANTIALLY
CONCLUDED.

2. ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT, DESPITE PERSISTENT OFFICIAL SILENCE,
RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE INDICATED FOLLOWING:

(A) IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, TALKS WILL BEGIN CONCERNING
PROCEDURE BY WHICH NATO BASES IN GREECE WILL BE ABOLISHED
IN FURTHERANCE OF GREECE'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM MILITARY
ARM OF NATO. ARTICLE NOTES THAT INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY
ARE BASES IN CRETE AND NORTHERN GREECE WHICH ARE EQUIPPED
WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

(B) WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK IT WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03222 251845Z

THAT U.S. HOMEPORTING FACILITIES WILL BE ABOLISHED. AS FOR

THE CLOSING OF ATHENAI AIR BASE, THERE EXISTS "CERTAIN SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION" THAT INSTALLATIONS OF THIS PARTICULAR BASE MIGHT PERHAPS BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER LOCATION. THE AIRFIELDS OF SOUDA BAY (CRETE) OR RHODES ARE MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES.

3. AKROPOLIS APRIL 25 ALSO CARRIED REPORT ON US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER HEADLINE "THIRD PHASE OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS". STORY INDICATES THERE WILL BE ANNOUNCEMENT SHORTLY DESCRIBING RESULTS OF SECOND PHASE OF BASE TALKS AND "IT IS EXPECTED THAT A THIRD PHASE WILL BE REQUIRED." AKROPOLIS STORY ALSO CARRIES A DENIAL BY THE "GREEK SIDE" (SOURCE UNSPECIFIED) OF REPORT THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S AGENDA FOR HIS TALKS WITH GREEK OFFICIALS HERE ON APRIL 24 INCLUDED AN ITEM "TO EXERCISE PRESSURE RELEVANT TO STATUS OF U.S. BASES IN GREECE."

4. TA NEA APRIL 24 CARRIED STORY ON BASES HEADLINED "THIS SUMMER SIXTH FLEET FACILITIES WILL BE ENDED: THREE FOREIGN BASES WILL REMAIN." TEXT OF STORY IDENTIFIES THE THREE BASES AS (1) CENTER FOR WEAPONS TESTING AT CHANIA, CRETE; (2) THE AIR BASE AT SOUDA BAY, CRETE; AND (3) THE 588TH (SIC) ARTILLERY GROUP AT ELEFSIS AND AT LANGADA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, PRESS RELEASES, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS03222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-0902
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750414/aaaaamqf.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SPECULATION ON STATUS U.S. AND NATO MILITARY BASES IN GREECE
TAGS: MARR, GR, US, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006